

The Hallelujah Factor 3
Psalm 145 4-22

Praise is central to biblical piety – Ps 22:3 “God inhabits the praises of His people.”
Psalm 145 gives us some insights on the issue. REVIEW ...

v. 1-3

1 I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
2 Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
3 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.

The Constancy of Praise – Forever and ever; every day; forever and ever.
You can NEVER PRAISE God TOO MUCH

The Legacy of Corporate Praise

4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
6 Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,
And I will tell of Your greatness.

Praise is CAUGHT , not taught.

INTENTIONALITY OF PRAISE

To pass praise to the next generation you must be intentional.

5 On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, I will **meditate**. (Do you know how to meditate? If you can worry, you can meditate)
6 Men shall **speak** of the power of Your awesome acts,
And I will **tell** of Your greatness.
7 They shall **eagerly utter** the memory of Your abundant goodness
And will **shout joyfully** of Your righteousness.
Beware of whose splendor you are magnifying.
To pass praise along to the next generation you must be intentional

This psalmist is not passive and silent.
Spiritual passivity is toxic for the next generation.

The Character of the God we Praise

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
9 The Lord is good to **all**,
And His mercies are over **all** His works.

The fountainhead of verse 8 is found in Ex 34:6

In response to the plea of Moses to “show me your Glory”, Yahweh had him turn away when His glory passed, and this is what was revealed:

5 Yahweh descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord. 6 Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin;

Are you glad Daily that God is GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL? We'd better be!! There is no hope for us apart from the grace and mercy of God.

Are you glad DAILY that God is slow to anger and great in Lovingkindness? We'd better Be. Don't presume upon the grace of God.

If we profess Christ and claim God as our Father, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to exhibit those same characteristics as we walk through this life.

Is that how others would describe you? Describe us as a community of faith?

Those traits are natural for God, but they are the movement of faith for us.

If you ever want to know what a life of faith looks like, just look at v.8.

Is there someone in your life to whom you need to show grace and mercy? From whom you need grace and mercy?

v. 9 **The Lord is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.**

We wonder about that because bad stuff happens in the world and happens to us. We are prone to ask, "Where is the mercy of God in this?"

It is in the fact that we are not getting what we deserve.

Any second that we are not in Hell is evidence of God's mercy over all His works. Everything this side of Hell is grace. Even the worst taste of mercy is better than the righteous justice that we deserve.

Jesus puts it this way when speaking of God's mercy to all...

Matt 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

We are right to focus on the eternal mercies of God in Christ, but we should not ignore the daily tender mercies of God that come our way on a routine basis, often without our even asking for them.

When I think of the tender mercies of God two things come to mind:

A Hymn and a movie

The hymn is For the Beauty of the Earth, which I think I first learned at a VBS as a child. The best arrangement is by John Rutter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ij9X5U3NpUI>

Folliot S. Pierpoint

1. For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies—

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild—

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.

For each perfect gift of thine, To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

Refrain:

Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise

A simple song that speaks loudly about the daily tender mercies of God.

THE MOVIE: Tender Mercies – a simple film with an undercurrent of seeing God’s tender mercies in the daily lives of the characters.

The response to the God we Praise

10 All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord,

And Your godly ones shall bless You.

11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom

And talk of Your power;

12 To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts

And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

Last week in our WCSC reading we looked at the 10th commandment on coveting, which is the opposite of thankfulness. A grateful thankful heart is one that has a posture of humility. Coveting is a posture of Pride. We live in an age of entitlement and expectation of what others or even God must do for us. THAT IS OPPOSED TO a heart of humility.

EX: To some degree we all live with a mindset of “I don’t mind you thinking of me as a humble person as long as you don’t treat me like one.”

Giving Thanks is a discipline and at times it may seem like serious hard work. Heb 13:15 speaks of bringing a sacrifice of praise. We don’t usually put sacrifice and praise together, but at times praise is simply the movement of faith.

To praise God in difficult times requires personal sacrifice. It takes an act of the will to lay our all on the altar before a God we don’t understand. When we bring a "sacrifice of praise," we choose to believe that, even though life is not going as we think it should, God is still good and can be trusted (Psalm 135:2; Nahum 1:7). When we choose to praise God in spite of the storms, He is honored, and our faith grows deeper (Malachi 3:13-17; Job 13:15).

When Nehemiah was getting ready to dedicate the new wall around Jerusalem, he called for the Levites and the singers (Neh 12). He appointed two GREAT choirs to give thanks. These choirs were created just for that purpose, so obviously their work was important.

Thankfulness is a mark of the soul renewed by and filled with the Holy Spirit

Eph 5:15-20

15Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

See Col 3:14ff

Rom 1 –the lack of thanks is a mark of suppressing the truth that is evident in creation. It is a mark of opposition to God.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

THE COMPREHENSIVE WORK OF God - “ALL” is characteristic of this psalm.

Used 13 times from v. 8-21

8 The Lord is gracious and merciful;
Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

9 The Lord is good to **all**,
And His mercies are over **all** His works.

10 **All** Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord,
And Your godly ones shall bless You.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout **all** generations.

14 The Lord sustains **all** who fall And raises up all who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of **all** look to You, And You give them their food in due time.

17 The Lord is righteous in **all** His ways And kind in **all** His deeds.

18 The Lord is near to **all** who call upon Him, To **all** who call upon Him in truth.

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

20 The Lord keeps **all** who love Him, But **all** the wicked He will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, And **all** flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

If God is God, then He is God over ALL THINGS.

It is a deficient religion and doctrine of God that does not recognize that God is over all things.

Colossians 1 speaks of Christ in this context...

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

There is nothing outside of God's purview and control.

EX: Government officials being questioned about their action or inaction on certain issues and there was a constant refrain of "That was not in my purview", i.e. "I know nothing".

God DOES NOT shirk responsibility or pass the buck – Just read JOB.
His rule and His kingdom cover ALL THINGS.

It is a false religion and foolishness that says that God is all things or that all things are a part of God. Scripture clearly teaches a distinction between the Creator and the creation. Romans 1:

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

The Creator, who is blessed forever, is worthy of praise and Thanksgiving.

This Table before us is central to the grace and mercy of God toward sinners. It is here that his mercy is displayed because the TABLE points us to the cross and the Marriage supper of the Lamb for those He came to save. The TABLE points to the glory of the kingdom of our gracious God.

Ryan Higginbottom

It is good and necessary for us to cultivate a thankful spirit, both individually and as a community. Giving thanks regularly reminds us that we receive all that we have, not because we have earned or deserved it, but because God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Meditating on God's provision for us gives us a natural connection to the saving work of Jesus

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